

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 NIC-01 EUR-25 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 IO-13 RSR-01

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R 031351Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0489

INFO USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MCAP, LY

SUBJ: SEPTEMBER 1 MILITARY PARADE

1. EMBOFF ATTENDED SEPTEMBER 1 MILITARY PARADE WHICH ALSO TELEVISED LOCALLY. PARADE WAS DISPLAY OF INTERESTINGLY INTERNATIONAL ARRAY OF EQUIPMENT. SOVIET SA-2 "GUIDELINE" AND SA-3 "GOA" ANTIAIRCRAFT MISSILES AND FRENCH "CROTALE" ANTIAIRCRAFT MISSILES WERE THE MOST MODERN EQUIPMENT DISPLAYED. ITALIAN MANUFACTURED, U.S. DESIGNED, M-113 PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS WERE THE NEWEST GROUND EQUIPMENT ON DISPLAY. OTHER SOVIET EQUIPMENT WHICH EMBOFFS WERE ABLE TO IDENTIFY WERE BTR-60 PERSONNEL CARRIERS, BTR-40 AMPHIBIOUS SCOUT CARS WITH LAUNCHING PLATFORMS FOR AT-3 "SAGGER" ANTI-TANK MISSILES, M-1967 ARMORED INFANTRY VEHICLES WITH "SAGGER" AT-3S MOUNTED ATOP 76 MM MAIN ARAMENT, T-54 AND T-55 TAKS, ZSU-234 MM TRUCK-TOWED HOWITZERS 120 MM TRUCK-TOWED MORTARS AND ATS TRACKED ARTILLERY TRACTORS. BRITISH REPRESENTED BY LANDROVERS, BEDFORD TRUCKS, SALADIN AND FERRET ARMORED CARS. INTERESTING

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ITEM WAS PRESENCE OF BAC SWINGFIRE ANTI-TANK MISSILES

MOUNTED ON FERRET SCOUT CARS.

2. MARCHING UNITS OF REGULAR FORCES WOULD PROBABLY HAVE DRAWN REBUKE FROM DRILL INSTRUCTOR IN ANY SELF-RESPECTING BASIC TRAINING COMPANY. DRILLING PERFORMANCE OF POPULAR RESISTANCE FORCES WOULD REDUCE DRILL INSTRUCTOR TO EITHER TEARS OR INCAPACITATING LAUGHTER. PARADE WAS NOT WITHOUT CASUALTIES. EMBOFF OBSERVED FOUR PERSONS EVACUATED BY AMBULANCE AFTER T-54 TANK COMMANDER TURNED AND LOWERED HIS TANK'S MAIN ARMAMENT IN A SALUTE TO THE REVIEWING STAND. THE TANKER LOCKED HIS EYES ON THE REVIEWING OFFICERS AND WAS COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS TO THE CORN-PICKER EFFECT OF HIS GUN AS IT SWEEPED THROUGH THE HEADS OF THE CROWD AT THE SIDE OF THE ROAD. ALSO UNDERSTAND FROM FRENCH EMBASSY THAT AT LEAST ONE LIBYAN PARACHUTIST WAS INJURED IN JUMP INTO THE SEA BEFORE THE REVIEWING STAND. EMBOFF, AT THE REVIEWING STAND, WAS SURPRISED THAT JUMPS WERE MADE INTO THE STIFF SURFACE WINDS. CHIEF OF THE MIRAGE MISSION TELLS US THAT DURING THE JUMPING AND FLY-BY OPERATIONS THERE WERE GUSTS OF UP TO 35 KTS. MOST DELIGHTFUL MOMENT OF THE PARADE WAS LIBYAN ARMY BAND'S ENTHUSIASTIC RENDITION OF "STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER" WHILE LIBYA'S ELITE PARACHUTISTS DOUBLED-TIMED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY CEREMONIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TRIPOL01133
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730957/aaaabqan.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <17-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEPTEMBER 1 MILITARY PARADE
TAGS: MCAP, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005